



Release Highlights: August 29, 2006

MONTANA

Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Estimates, 2005

<http://ceic.mt.gov/demographics.asp>

Montana's economy is rolling right along. Montanans are pocketing more income, fewer are mired in poverty, and more are being covered with health insurance. Montana's improving economy is reflected in the recent release of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2005 Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage report. Furthermore, Montana is outperforming most of her neighboring states in these three areas.

Montana realized the largest increase in the two-year average median household income between 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 compared to its neighbors. Montana's 1.6% rise in income surpassed South Dakota's 1.4%, while the other three neighboring states all saw declines in their income. Nationally, income grew by 0.4%

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

State	2003/2004	Rank	2004/2005	Rank	% Change
Idaho	\$45,404	26	\$45,009	26	-0.9%
Montana	\$35,644	48	\$36,200	49	1.6%
North Dakota	\$41,708	37	\$41,362	40	-0.8%
South Dakota	\$42,212	36	\$42,816	35	1.4%
Wyoming	\$46,038	21	\$45,817	23	-0.5%
UNITED STATES	\$45,893	--	\$46,071	--	0.4%

Montana's poverty rate for all ages shrank from 14.1% to 13.8% between 2004 and 2005. South Dakota's poverty rate declined slightly while North Dakota's and Wyoming's rose. Idaho's remained at 10%. Nationally, the change from 12.7% to 12.6% was statistically insignificant.

POVERTY RATE OF ALL AGES

State	2004	Rank	2005	Rank
Idaho	9.9%	13	9.9%	12
Montana	14.1%	37	13.8%	36
North Dakota	9.7%	11	11.2%	20
South Dakota	13.4%	36	11.8%	26
Wyoming	9.9%	15	10.6%	17
UNITED STATES	12.7%	--	12.6%	--

Both Idaho and Montana made progress in providing health insurance to their citizens. The percent of people without coverage declined 1.6% in Idaho and 1.0% in Montana. Meanwhile Montana's other border states all saw their rates increase slightly. Again, the change at the national level was slight.

PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

State	2003/2004	Rank	2004/2005	Rank	% change
Idaho	17%	12	16%	19	-1.6%
Montana	19%	4	18%	7	-1.0%
North Dakota	11%	43	11%	39	0.7%
South Dakota	12%	34	12%	35	0.1%
Wyoming	15%	19	15%	21	0.1%
UNITED STATES	15.6%	--	15.7%	--	0.1%

NOTE: Percentages are rounded.

NOTE: Rankings are from highest percentage of people without health insurance coverage to the lowest.

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